

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT
INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 18, 2016 – 8:30 a.m. – Room 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Scott K. Jenkins, Senate Chair
Rep. Lee B. Perry, House Chair
Sen. Allen M. Christensen
Sen. Margaret Dayton
Sen. Jani Iwamoto
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. Scott H. Chew
Rep. Jack R. Draxler
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Stephen G. Handy
Rep. Timothy D. Hawkes

Rep. Lynn N. Hemingway
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. Derrin Owens
Rep. Douglas V. Sagers
Rep. Scott Sandall

Members Absent:

Rep. Mike K. McKell

Staff Present:

Mr. J Brian Allred, Policy Analyst
Ms. RuthAnne Frost, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Katie LeFevre, Legislative Assistant

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Perry called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

MOTION: Sen. Jenkins moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2015, meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Christensen, Sen. Dayton, Sen. Iwamoto, Rep. Draxler, Rep. Noel, and Rep. Sagers absent for the vote.

Mr. Allred distributed "2016 Required Reports" and outlined the required reports the committee will receive during interim. He explained that the Legislative Management Committee assigned the committee to conduct a sunset review on the Mercury Switch Removal Act. He announced that the Legislative Management Committee approved a request for a committee site visit in September.

Ms. Frost distributed "Open and Public Meetings Act Summary" and reviewed the Open and Public Meetings Act.

2. Long-Term Planning

Mr. Alan Matheson, Executive Director, Department of Environmental Quality, distributed "DEQ Planning Priorities." He identified population growth, additional federal requirements, and limited resources as challenges facing the department.

Mr. Mike Styler, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources, distributed "Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet" and presented the "Department of Natural Resources' Long-Term Planning Presentation." He indicated that the department's ongoing priorities are balancing natural resource management, meeting future needs, improving watersheds, and accelerating the water adjudication process.

Ms. LuAnn Adams, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Food, distributed the handout "Utah Department of Agriculture and Food Presentation." She discussed the challenges facing the department regarding conservation efforts, medical marijuana oversight, the Food Safety Modernization Act, and future population growth.

3. Follow Up on Recent Legislative Audits on Water Issues

Mr. Allred distributed "Selected Legislation Relating to the Performance Audit of Projections of Utah's Water Needs." He listed the legislation passed during the 2016 General Session that addressed audit recommendations. He explained that during the November 2015 interim meeting, the committee decided to invite the water districts to report ways to repair and replace water infrastructure during the 2016 interim.

Report 2015-01: A Performance Audit of Projections of Utah's Water Needs **Water System Infrastructure Funding**

Mr. Scott Paxman, Assistant General Manager, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, explained what the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District does to fund water infrastructure and how the district has adapted to new regulations.

Mr. Ron Thompson, General Manager, Washington County Water Conservancy District, explained that aging infrastructure is an important issue facing the nation. He discussed the long-term planning the water districts have done to maintain water infrastructure and how his water district has prepared.

Mr. Gene Shawcroft, General Manager, Central Utah Water Conservancy District, discussed the "Statewide Water Infrastructure Plan" and outlined how the current water infrastructure was developed.

Mr. Richard Bay, General Manager, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, discussed the need to formalize the plans and procedures in the "Statewide Water Infrastructure Plan."

Mr. Wayne Pullan, Area Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, explained the background of the Bureau of Reclamation in Utah and its current purpose.

Rep. Chew commented that some Bureau of Reclamation projects, such as Flaming Gorge, were created to help with flood control but because of the Endangered Species Act, Flaming Gorge is now being used to simulate floods. Mr. Pullan concurred.

The panel members responded to questions from the committee.

The committee heard public comment from Mr. Zach Frankel, Utah Rivers Council, who outlined his concerns regarding the cost projections for future water infrastructure funding.

Mr. Eric Millis, Director, Division of Water Resources, responded to Mr. Frankel's comment and explained that the cost projections in reference were out of date and were not formal fund requests. He referred the committee to the "Statewide Water Infrastructure Plan."

Collection and Use of Accurate Water Use Data

This item was not discussed.

Report 2014-13: A Performance Review of Division of Drinking Water's Minimum Source Sizing Requirements

This item was not discussed.

4. Other Committee Business

There was no additional committee business.

5. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Jenkins moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Christensen absent for the vote.

Chair Perry adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.